

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment submits the changes identified above, and is responsive in any other manner indicated below.

PENDING CLAIMS

Original Claims 1-7 have been cancelled, and new Claim 8 is presented herein in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. That is, such changes are unrelated to any prior art or scope adjustment and are simply refocused claims in which Applicant is presently interested. At entry of this paper, Claim 8 remains pending for further consideration and examination in the application.

Applicant respectfully informs the Office that a Supplemental Preliminary Amendment presenting additional claims for entry and examination herein will be filed in this continuation application. In the event that this application is up for examination and a Supplemental Preliminary Amendment has not already been filed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. area number of 703-312-6600, to effect the filing of Applicant's Supplemental Preliminary Amendment. Applicant and the undersigned would wholly appreciate such consideration.

CLAIMS FOR PRIORITY UNDER §§119 AND 120

Applicant claims foreign priority under 35 USC §119 of JP 2000-313121 filed 6 October 2000, and the certified copy of the priority document was submitted in parent Application No. 09/888,645. Written acknowledgment of the completion of all requirements for Applicant's claim of priority under §119 is respectfully requested.

Applicant also claims domestic priority under 35 USC §120 of parent Application No. 09/888,645 filed 26 June 2001, and the specification of this continuation case has been amended to identify the related prior application. Written acknowledgment of the completion of all requirements for Applicant's claim of priority under §120 is respectfully requested.

ASSIGNEE OF ENTIRE INTEREST

HITACHI, LTD. is Assignee of entire right, title and interest in and to the present continuation application by virtue of the Assignment recorded 26 June 2001 at Reel 011938, Frames 0766 et seq.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Further, Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, i.e., Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. number of 703-312-6600, to discuss an Examiner's Amendment or other suggested action for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

This First Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with the present continuation application, and therefore, no Petition or fee is possible or required. Please charge any substantiated fees due in connection with entry of this paper to ATSK Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing case No. 500.40249CX1).

Respectfully submitted,



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